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Presents: **King Kirby** by Crystal Skillman and Fred Van Lente, April 15 to 23, 2016

For Immediate Release: March 21, 2016

King Kirby Celebrates Creator Behind Iconic Superhero Characters

Canadian premiere provides glimpse into life of Marvel, DC comic book artist

Calgary, AB – Sage Theatre presents **King Kirby** by Crystal Skillman and Fred Van Lente at Pumphouse Theatre, **April 15 to 23, 2016**. Tickets range from \$15 - \$30 and can be purchased at sagetheatre.com.

King Kirby chronicles the life of Jack Kirby, the American comic book artist who brought us such iconic characters as Captain America, the Fantastic Four, the Avengers, The Hulk, Silver Surfer, and more. Featuring Robert Klein as Kirby and David LeReaney—whose notable roles include *Passchendaele*, acclaimed FX series *Fargo*, and AMC's *Hell on Wheels*—as Stan Lee, alongside a host of talented, Calgary performers, **King Kirby** details Jack Kirby's storied career, including roles working with both Marvel Comics and DC Comics, among others, before his death in 1994.

Comic book characters and their stories have become fixtures of global pop culture. Though few know his name, Jack Kirby's carefully-crafted characters, their trials and triumphs, have captivated billions around the world. A celebration of the artist's life, skill and achievements, **King Kirby** poses the questions: Do we know where our pop culture comes from? What happens when an artist doesn't have ownership of his work? And once lost, can he ever reclaim it?

"Jack Kirby was a dynamo of ideas, and the impact and power of those ideas is still felt today, especially in a billion-dollar film industry that showcases his characters across the planet," says Jason Mehmel, Artistic Director for Sage Theatre. "**King Kirby** provides a fascinating glimpse into Kirby's history, illustrating how the creator was just as colourful and complex as any of his creations. It's also a personal tragedy, as Kirby himself made a choice that inevitably caused his life and reputation to be overshadowed by his characters."

CAST: Robert Klein, David LeReaney, Cam Ascroft, Justin Michael Carriere, and Cheryl Hutton.

CREATIVE TEAM: Director: Jason Mehmel; Set Design: Anton de Groot; Lighting Design: Lauren Acheson; Costume Design: Kathryn Smith.

King Kirby runs **April 15 to 23, 2016**, at **Pumphouse Theatre**. For ticket purchase and information call **(403) 264-7243** or visit sagetheatre.com.

MEDIA CALL: Thursday, April 14 @ 1:00PM

Pumphouse Theatre (2140 Pumphouse Ave SW)

****Additional promotional photos available on request****

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and the Calgary Arts Development Authority.

For media information and interview requests CONTACT: Shannon McClennan-Taylor, Publicist